

Peace † Grue

God's Country News
An ELCA Parish



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DECEMBER 2024



Peace † Grue Lutheran Church Holiday Services

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH -

December 15: 9:00 a.m. - Children's Christmas program.

December 24: 4:00 p.m. - Candlelight service

w/Holy Communion.

GRUE LUTHERAN CHURCH -

December 22: NO Morning Service 5:00 p.m. - Pot-Luck Fellowship and brief Christmas program & brief service at 6pm.

December 24: 5:30 p.m.. - Candlelight service w/ Holy Communion.

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Worship Times Change

JANUARY thru April 2024

PEACE service 10:45 am, GRUE service 9:00 am

No Sunday school @ PEACE or GRUE

the month of January.



December 2024



Dear friends in Christ at Peace and Grue,

Most catechisms in Luther's day began with the Creed, the Lord's prayer and then the Ten Commandments. The Creed represented "mere faith" that was insufficient for salvation. Such faith needed to be formed by works of love into saving faith. Prayer, including the Lord's prayer was a method to further this process.

This resulted in a number of problematic prayer practices Luther confronted: Medieval Christians thought they had to first become worthy before God would hear them. Medieval Christians prayed to the saints and to the Virgin Mary as intermediaries to advocate for them before God. Medieval Christians regard prayer as our good work done to impress God or somehow "make up" for sin. Since prayer was viewed as a good work repeating that good work was considered beneficial, leading to certain times of the day, seasons and occasions when prayer (often to a particular saint) was seen as mandatory. Finally Medieval Christians thought prayer was primarily a work for the clergy.

Luther took a shot at all of this by placing the Lord's Prayer third in his catechism. After hearing words that tell us how God wants to live and what God does for us, we are invited to "talk back" to God. God promises to hear us and even commanded us to pray. Our words come in response to God's word to us. Luther knew that what we believe about prayer tells us much about what kind of God we have and how we understand our relationship with God. Not only do we hear God's command to pray and promise to hear, God gives us the words to use in prayer. In this way we see how deeply concerned God is about our needs, and we should never doubt that prayer pleases him and is assuredly heard by him.

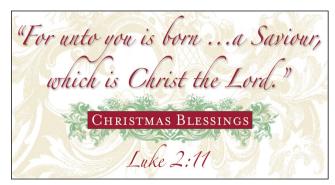
So, what stops us, what are the obstacles to prayer, why do we fail to call on God and seek help elsewhere? While prayer was an important part of Luther's life, Luther knew that prayer needed to be taught, for although the need comes naturally the words do not. In this regard Luther considered the Lord's Prayer the very best of all prayers. He wrote, "Since our Lord is the author it is without a doubt the most sublime, the loftiest, and the most excellent. If he, the good and faithful Teacher, had known a better one, he would surely have taught us that too." For Luther authentic, honest prayer does not mean you have to be creative or extemporaneous, we can and should use the words Christ gave us.

When you converse, how do you know your words have really been heard, what would give you such assurance? For Luther that assurance comes in the "Amen." We say "Amen" not to have the last word but as an expression of faith in our listening and generous God, which for Luther was not only sufficient for salvation, but the only legitimate response to God's saving work in Jesus Christ., leaving no doubt that God who promises to listen has indeed heard our request.

"More than that," Luther wrote to his barber, "never think that you are kneeling or standing alone, rather think that the whole of Christendom, all devote Christians are standing there beside you and you are standing among them in a common, united petition which God does not disdain...this I know as a certainty and a truth." But more about that next month.

Enjoy the Holidays as we enter into a new year and pray often,

Pastor Dan





PEACE CHURCH ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

December 2024

12-01 AJ Olson & Darian Holte

12-08 Coffee Cup

12-15 Gavin Balgaard & Gage Norby

12-22 Finn Thompson & Lola Thompson

12-24 Noah Anderson & Isaiah Anderson

12-29 Liam Hanson & Jaxon Hanson

READINGS FOR DECEMBER

December 1, 2024

First Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10 Psalm

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36 Gospel

December 8, 2024

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Psalm Second Reading Philippians 1:3-11

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

December 15, 2024

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Psalm Second Reading Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18 Gospel

December 22, 2024

First Reading Micah 5:2-5a Psalm Luke 1:46b-55 Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10 Gospel

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

December 24, 2024

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm Psalm o6 Second Reading Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] Gospel

December 29, 2024

First Reading Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:46b-55 Psalm Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55] Gospel



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 1st Morgan Wing December 2nd Kari Piekarski Zoe Wick December 3rd Jo Ann Vodegel December 4th Haleigh Brendmoen Cecilia Nelson December 5th LeRoy Evavold Frank Novak Derek Williams December 6th Donna Knutson Madison Van Santen Daniel Runningen December 9th Linda Ehlert December 11th Jeremy Anderson December 12th Thomas Graham December 13th Abbigal Evavold Beatrice Runningen December 14th Avery Evavold **Emily Evavold** December 17th Andy Lang Dwight Walvatne

December 18th

Lee Peterson

December 19th Randy Koefod December 20th Deb Sorenson December 22nd Aksel Grover December 25th Mary Ann Nichols Sandy Odens Ouynn Behrens Tina Norenberg December 26th Jamie Brendmoen Tim Cunningham December 28th Shevenne Evavold December 29th Kathy ML Evavold God's Country News Articles are DUE by the 15th of each MONTH



If I don't have your birth date or if I have it listed incorrectly please e-mail or call me -747-2273 / peace@prtel.com Melissa R



Peace Bible Study meet:

Tuesday, December 17th , 9:30am @ Peace.

GRUE Bible Study meet:
Tuesday, December 17th,
1:30 @ Ashby
Assisted Living



PEACE SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR December 2024 PEACE SERVICE 9:00AM / SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM No Sunday School January

December 1st	SS @ 10:15
December 8th	SS @ 10:15
December 15th	Christmas Program - during service

Grue Sunday School Schedule for December 2024 Grue service 10:45 am / Sunday School 9:30 am No Sunday School January

December 1st	SS @ 9:30
December 8th	SS @ 9:30
December 15th	SS @ 9:30
December 22nd	Christmas Program, Potluck - 5:00, Program - 6:00 pm



GRUE WELCA NEWS



11/20/24

The Grue Lutheran Church Bible Study met at the Assisted Living Center in Ashby on Nov 19th at 1:30 pm.

Our lesson was on Peace in a time of trouble, lesson no. 7, purpose: to equip us to handle crisis for which we have no explanation or answers. Even in the times of greatest darkness and confusion, we have not been abandoned. (John 16:16-33).

Our bible Studies will resume in the spring while we now concentrate on quilt making and other projects. The proceeds of these projects will be given to our local missions, benefits, food shelfs and others.

Our next lesson in the Spring (April) will be lesson 8. Jesus prays for us. (John 17) purpose: To reveal concerns of Jesus' heart as he faced the cross and to see how those concerns should be ours as his followers. Time & place will be announced.

We held our business meeting after bible study. Election of officers stayed the same. Patty will be leading the studies while Betty is South.

We have been invited to have a table at the Dalton 2nd annual Christmas Fest Craft/vendor Sale on Dec. 14th, 9-3:30. At the Dalton Community Center & Zion Sarpsborg Church.

We will have crafts, Christmas and other, baked goods, Quilts, one blue Jean quilt for raffle. Other blue jean items, wreaths and many more. We need to work hard to make it a success.

Our FREE Harvest meal will be this Saturday, 11/23/24, there will be a free will offering that will go to the local food shelf and you may take a 150th Anniversary cup for your donation. The meal is FREE. We hope you enjoy. All are welcome.

We dispersed our proceeds from the year giving to the following: Ashby Roots, K-6 Arrows, Otter Tail County Food Shelf, Battle Lake Food Shelf, Grant County Food Shelf, Red River Valley Hospice, Relay for Life, Salvation Army, Jingle Bells, Luther Crest - Prepare the way, etc. We hope to do as well next year.

We are enjoying our kitchen with its new look. We thank everyone who helped with this project, it is looking very nice, a joy to work in. Thank You!

We hope all are well, if not, get better soon, our prayers are with you.

Have a great thanksgiving with family and friends.

God Bless

Bea Runningen, Sec.



PEACE WELCA NEWS



11/19/24

A couple weeks ago I had the opportunity to witness two productions about the birth of Jesus in Branson. The first was a huge theatrical production at Sight and Sound Theatre, several dozen characters, smoke, all the bells and whistles, and then the next day I went to a small outdoor theatre at Silver Dollar City, less than 10 characters, same scripture readings and to me the simple, humble production was more meaningful. That is my hope and prayer for all of you is that you all remember the simple, humble beginnings of life for Jesus as you prepare, bake, shop and attend family festivities this year.

WELCA met on the 19th to do our disbursements, do some planning for next year and thank those that are serving as monthly chairs again next year. I can honestly say that everyone I contacted for December said "yes". The most difficult thing is having correct contact info, so please check your phone numbers in the WELCA book and Annual Report, we try to compare them.

Thank you to everyone that helped with the November worship activities and those of you helping in December. Also, thank you to everyone that has helped with funerals this year. Grieving families truly feel the support of their fellow congregation members during this sad time.

WELCA Board met on the 19th and thanks to all that helped with "No Bake" Bake sale this year, Pie in the Park and the Bazaar, we were able to make donations of over \$5,000 including a donation to the Synod and \$1,000 to our church general budget.

A discussion was held on continuing the Fall Bazaar and in light of having hosted the Bazaar for over 50 years, we are looking for new ideas for a fund raiser. One suggestion was a large Christmas Bake and Craft Sale, and another was a Lutefisk and Lefse Dinner (especially since there will no longer be one at the restaurant). We are looking for ideas.

The Mission Growth Team is now going to be known as the Peace Event team and will include any fund raiser or educational event in our church that involves WELCA.

The Mission Action Team which has been known as the quilting group will be changed to Peace Outreach Team and besides quilting will include other mission projects, such as the Valentine Luncheon we did for the Care Center this year and the meals served to the Habitat Volunteers in Dalton.

Our quilters relaxed during November and December and will start again in January. A big thank you to those ladies, we gave quilts to Someplace Safe in Grant County, Churches United in Moorhead, Salvation Army in Fergus Falls, and our big project this year was a boys group home in Cokato, giving 36 boys there a new quilt. Jerimiah Gaertner graduated from Ashby in 1994 (married to Amy Stierlen) is the Program Director at the home and we had a few quilts that went to a girls' home in Annandale.



PEACE WELCA NEWS



We gather on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 9 am; it is a great way to serve and socialize. The backs for the quilts are usually sheets purchased at Walmart and even if you would like to take these sheets home and wash and iron them, it would be a big help.

Matlyn Sieckert was the winner of the Thanksgiving/Fall quilt at the thrift store this month. Mattie is a student in Ashby, and it is always fun to call a local person to congratulate them and thank them for shopping in our community.

The quilt for the December drawing is a red and green plaid with a gray and white snowflake background, all in flannel, so very cozy.

Pastor Maddie, Director at Luther Crest was our program for our Advent Tea, reminding us of ways to not get caught up in the hectic activities of the Christmas season. Thank you to Leslie and her crew for planning the event.



Merry Christmas everyone!!! Remember to keep Christ in your Christmas.

Val Fick WELCA Co-President



The glass serving plates have disappeared from the kitchen, if you have taken one home and forgotten to return it, please do so or if anyone has large glass cookie plates you no longer have a use for, our church kitchen would appreciate the donation.

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Parish Council Meeting November 13, 2024

In attendance: Tim Cunningham, Linda Bahnson, Sharon Hermanson, Melissa Runningen, June Bjornson, Darlane Miller, Randy Koefod, Char Woldahl, Sonia Heibel, Gene Jensen, Wayne Vorland, Duane Spielman & Jody Dahlen.

Absent: Brenda Johnson, Gwen Lillemon, Bob Torgrimson and Pastor Dan.

Meeting called to order by Darlane Miller.

Devotions: Widow's offering reading and prayer. Mark 12: 38-44

Additions to agenda: approve 2025 Parish budget.

Secretary's Report: read and approved. M/S/C Treasurer's Report: reviewed and approved. M/S/C

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dan on vacation

Old Business:

August Parish Picnic - Table discussion until Pastor Dan returns to report on his visit with Pastor Paul on the topic.

Thanksgiving eve service - the service will be held on the 26th at Our Saviors Ten Mile in Dalton. Service starts at 7:00pm. Let us come and give thanks for all the blessings that God bestows upon us.

New Business - the council reviewed the 2025 proposed budget.

Tim went over changes and answered questions.

The Budget committee met and discussed increases in salaries.

The council approved the budget. M/S/C

Motion to adjourn meeting. M/S/C

The Lord's Prayer was prayed in unison.

Next Parish Council meeting will be held @ Peace on February 12th, 2025, at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Hermanson Council Secretary Grue Council Meeting

November 13, 2024

In attendance: Darlane Miller, June Bjornson, Randy Koefod, Char Woldahl, Sonia Heibel, Melissa Runningen and Sharon Hermanson.

Absent: Gwen Lillemon, Bob Torgrimson and Pastor Dan.

Additions to Agenda: Annual meeting date

Christmas Eve service time Hanging of the Greens 2025 proposed Budget

Secretary's Report: read and approved. M/S/C Treasure's Report: reviewed and approved. M/S/C

Old Business- Harvest Meal food has been purchased. Members have signed up to help serve and bake sheet pies.

Covers for window wells- 3 will be purchased from either Home Depot or Menards. Council approved the purchase. M/S/C

New Business-

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 19th after 10:45 service.

Meeting followed by a potluck. We hope to see you all there.

We will be switching with Peace on service times that day.

Hanging of the Greens will not be done this year.

Grape Juice for Communion- please check the dates on the juice bottle when you are serving that month. Make sure it is fresh and not expired.

Handicap sign- the council discussed about putting in another handicap sign. Council members will be contacting the appropriate organization to get it installed.

Next council meeting will be Wednesday, December 11th at 7:00pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted, Sharon Hermanson Council Secretary

May the Infinite WONDER of CHRISTMAS fill your heart with LASTING JOY.

Good News of Great JOY for EVERYONE.

Grue has 2 positions opening up on the Council, if you are interested please contact a council member.

PEACE COUNCIL NEWS

Peace Church Council Minutes

November 13, 2024

Members present: Linda Bahnson, Wayne Vorland, Gene Jensen, Jody Dahlen, Tim Cunningham, and Duane Spielman.

Members absent: Brenda Johnson

Secretary's report: M/S/C to accept as written.

Treasurer's report: M/S/C to accept as written.

Pastor's report: No report as Pastor is on vacation.

Committee reports:

Education: No Report

Christian Growth: No report

Worship: Decorating for Christmas will take place on November 24th after church. Thanksgiving service will be on Tuesday, November 26th at 7:00 at Our Saviors-Ten Mile Lake in Dalton. Christmas Eve Services will be 4:00 at Peace, 5:30 at Grue. There will be no services on Christmas Day. Sunday School Christmas Program will be on December 15th during church services.

Property and Management: Tim will order new handicapped and Pastor's parking signs, as current signs are faded and need replacement. Tim will also look at ordering some automatic locking doors due to continued issues with church doors being left unlocked and lights on.

Old Business: Elroy Anderson Endowment-committee met to discuss next steps. It is their hope to present information at the annual meeting in January.

New Business: Please let the church know if your phone number has changed. This is helpful when trying to call for parish assistants and to update the church directory.

M/S/C to adjourn.

Next meeting: Sunday, December 8th after coffee cup services.

Jody Dahlen

Peace Council Secretary

Peace has 2 positions opening up on the Council, if you are interested please contact a council member.

Thank You



We would like to update our congregation's addresses so that we will have them correct in our church directory and also for the newsletter, please fill out the form, and mail it to Peace/Grue Parish at PO Box 157, Ashby MN 56309 or email to peace@prtel.com or put in the mail slot in the Parish Office Manager's office door.

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DRESS	
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JIVE IVOIMI	BERS
AIL ADDR	ESS
	For the People who leave for the winter - please update you addresses,
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Worship Committee Meeting Minutes Nov. 3, 2024 8:30am

Members Present: Pastor Dan, Cindy Vorland, Teresa Ohren, Candy Catoe, Carol Koefod

Members Absent: Brenda Risbrudt

Old Business:

- I. Decorating for Christmas after church Nov. 24- Information will be put in the bulletin to encourage people to help.
- II. Thanksgiving Community Service: Our Saviors Ten Mile Lake Dalton Tues. Nov. 26, 7:00pm

New Business

- I. Advent Services: Acolytes will light the Advent Candles
- II. Christmas Eve Services: Early Services at Peace: 4:00 pm

Late Services at Grue: 5:30 pm

- III. There are no Christmas Day Services
- IV. Poinsettia Orders: Order forms will be ready soon. Orders due Nov. 25

V. Winter Services

- A. Nov. Services
 - 1. All Saints Sunday *Will make sure all candle holders have new or nearly new candles in the future to make sure they light easily.
 - 2. Community Thanksgiving Services at Our Saviors in Dalton 7:00pm
- B. Dec. Services
 - 1.Sunday School Program will be during services Dec. 15
 - 2. Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary for Dec. 22 services
- C. Jan. Services
 - 1. TIME change. Winter services will be at 10:45 for Peace
 - 2. Peace Annual Meeting will be held January 12, 2025 after Coffee Cup Services.
- D. Feb. Meeting to discuss spring services will be held:
 - 1. Sunday Feb. 2, 2025 Time to be determined.



God's People in Service

December 2024

Peace + Grue Lutheran Parish

GRUE 10:45 a.m. Worship S.S 9:30 a.m.	December 1 Blue Communion	December 8 Blue	December 15 Blue	December 22 Blue No morning worship at GRUE-5pm Christmas pot- luck fellowship, 6pm service program	December 24 White Christmas Eve w / Holy Communion 5:30pm	December 29 White Welcome Margaret Schroeder
Janitors/ Ushers	Sharon Herman	nson, Dan & An	drea Ness			
Reader	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
Music	Denise Juven	Cindy Vorland	Denise Juven		Cindy Vorland	Denise Juven
PEACE 9:00 a.m. Worship S.S 10:15 a.m.	December 1 Blue Communion	December 8 Blue Coffee Cup Sunday	December 15 Blue Christmas program during service	December 22 Blue	December 24 White Christmas Eve w / Holy Communion 4:00 pm	December 29 White Welcome Margaret Schroeder
Music	Brenda Risbrudt	Brenda Risbrudt	Brenda Risbrudt	Brenda Risbrudt	Brenda Risbrudt	Contemporary
Ushers	Kevin Fick, Duane Spielman	•••••	Aaron Olson family	Steve Alvstad, Alan Boe	Hunter & Kyle Fick	Mike & Denise Hanson
Readers	Kevin Fick	•••••	Val Fick	Dwight Walvatne	Kevin Fick	Val Fick
Psalms	Darian Holte		Gavin Balgaard	Finn Thompson	Noah Anderson	Liam Hanson
Acolytes	AJ Olson Darian Holte	***********	Gavin Balgaard Gage Norby	Finn Thompson Lola Thompson	Noah Anderson Isaiah Anderson	Liam Hanson Jaxon Hanson
Communion Helper (set up, serve, clean)	Connar Samuelson Ken Spielman	•••••	•••••	•••••	Val & Kristyn Fick Jennifer Holte	***************************************
Cookie Servers	Teresa Magnuson	Cory & Julie Van Santen	Anne Mueller Mary Ann Balgaard	Val Fick	••••••	Kristyn Fick

Serving Team Peace Lutheran, Month of December

Chairpersons: Terry & Val Fick

*Ushers are reminded to pick up bulletins and trash and replace hymnals in racks prior to leaving the sanctuary.

Make sure the lights are turned off and ALL doors are locked!

Peace + Grue Lutheran Parish - December 2024

PARISH OFFICE 218-747-2273 Email <u>peace@prtel.com</u>
306 Larson Avenue, Box 157, Ashby, MN 56309 / Church website: <u>www.peacegrue.org</u>
PASTOR Dan Hermanson 612-877-0722 Email: <u>dlhermanson@hotmail.com</u>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 PEACE service 9:00 a.m. SS 10:15 a.m. GRUE service 10:45a.m. SS 9:30 a.m.	2	3	4 Confirmation 5:30 - 6:30 PM	5	6	7
8 PEACE service 9:00 a.m. SS 10:15 a.m. Peace Council meeting after service GRUE service 10:45a.m. SS 9:30 a.m.	9	10	Confirmation 5:30 - 6:30 PM Grue council meeting 7pm at Grue	12	13	14
15 PEACE service 9:00 a.m. Christmas Program during service GRUE service 10:45a.m. SS 9:30 a.m.	16	Peace Bible Study 9:30 a.m. GRUE Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	18 Confirmation 5:30 - 6:30 PM	19	20	21
PEACE service 9:00 a.m. SS 10:15 a.m. GRUE Christmas program Potluck - 5:00 Program - 6:00	23	Christmas Eve Candlelight service w/ Holy Communion Peace - 4:00 pm Grue - 5:30 pm	No Confirmation Christmas	26	27	28
Welcome Margaret Schroeder PEACE service 9:00 a.m. SS 10:15 a.m. GRUE service 10:45a.m. SS 9:30 a.m.	30	New Year's Eve	PEACE Church service 9:00 am, SS 10:15 am GRUE Church service 10:45 am, SS 9:30 am PQ - Peace Quilting, resumes Jan. 2025			

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OF THE ELCA

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